

# Torrance Herald

Established 1914

GLENN W. PFEIL

Publisher

REID L. BUNDY - Managing Editor

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1964

## A Timely Decision

Decision of the City Council to open an examination for fire or police chief to men in the departments holding any of the first three ranks below the chief, and to similarly ranked men of comparable California cities has been a wise one, we believe.

The prospect of having the issue clutter the April 14 municipal election ballot could hardly be described as appealing. Nor could it be called sound legislative procedure. Councilmen are elected to represent the citizens of their community and should not shunt thorny problems off to the voters for a decision when the going gets a little rough.

The decision, affirmed Tuesday night by the City Council by final adoption of the enabling ordinance, is timely. Each of the two department heads has notified the city that he intends to retire. Fire Chief J. J. Benner planned an early retirement this year but has agreed to stay on for a while. Chief Percy Bennett of the police department notified the city last Friday that he was going to retire soon.

Until the adoption of the enabling ordinance Tuesday, only one fireman could succeed to the chief's chair and only two police officers were eligible to seek the top post in that department.

As it now stands, 26 local men would be eligible to compete in the fire chief examinations and 10 police officers could compete in examinations for police chief.

In addition to this competition, the ordinance opens the examination to any officer in the first three grades below chief in any California city of 80,000 population, to sheriff's departments, and to others deemed appropriate by the Civil Service Board. This could include the California Highway Patrol among others, it is presumed.

Local officers seeking promotion to the posts will get a 2-point preference on scores after the grades are all in.

We believe the procedure will assure concerned Torrance residents the best leadership available will be provided for the two departments without necessarily sacrificing the talents of the local man who has been trained on the job for a number of years.

## There's Something New

One of the characteristics of private enterprise is its proven ability, on occasion after occasion, to achieve what many have believed to be impossible.

England will see a good example of it next spring. A heavily insulated tanker will slip alongside a jetty near London. Aboard will be a cargo of "frozen gas," super-refrigerated to a temperature of minus 258 degrees Fahrenheit. It will be the first of many shipments destined to bring cheaper and more convenient heat and fuel to millions of people overseas.

The freezing of natural gas has been in the project stage for years. There were grave doubts as to its feasibility, though there was no question that, if it could be successfully achieved, the benefits would be enormous—for instance, it takes only one barrel of storage space for the frozen gas for each 600 barrels of space it occupies as a vapor. One by one the problems were solved. And a mammoth production project was pioneered by a group of enterprises.

The long-range possibilities are now probabilities. New opportunities are open for gas-hungry countries seeking a more economical fuel that cannot be served by pipelines. And it will make its mark here at home by aiding the U.S. storage and later revaporize it to meet demands of peak gas industry to liquefy natural gas during off-season for periods.

That old saying—"There's nothing new under the sun"—needs revising!

## Opinions of Others

Too many go through life with a shuffleboard complex: tryin' to knock the other feller's block off. —Charley Grant, Burlington (Colo.) Record.

### A WHOPPING PILL TO SWALLOW!



## Incentive To Keep Digging



## A Bookman's Notebook

# Oldtimers Had Smoking Cures That Really Took

William Hogan

Think you have trouble trying to stop smoking? In the old days it was a little worse—or maybe a little better, as authorities really helped you to abolish the habit. When tobacco was judged a narcotic, and a particularly nasty one, the 17th Century Pope Urban VIII went so far as to excommunicate all who used tobacco. Three monks taken in the act of smoking, we are told, were arraigned and executed.

Tsar Michael Feodorovich threatened anyone found smoking with the knout. If the crime were repeated, the poor Russian culprit's nose was to be cut off. Incurable offenders were beheaded.

Toward the end of the 18th Century, the Vienna police had orders to fire on anyone seen smoking, whether cigarette or pipe. Danger of fire was the pretext usually invoked for these stringent measures.

These sad stories we find in a diverting little book, "The Pipe," by a French expert on the pleasurable art of selecting, smoking and caring for pipes, Georges Herment. This appeared originally about 10 years ago, and last autumn was re-issued as a Simon & Schuster paperback (\$1.25). It is a serious, factual and philosophical discussion of the pipe and all its appurtenances.

I have been looking it over again in an effort to decide if I should stay with a clay, porcelain, meerschaum or Algerian briar in an effort to keep the tar out of my lungs. M. Herment says nothing at all about the possibility of contracting cancer of the lip if one gives up cigarettes only to chomp on the stem of an Oom-Paul, a Churchwarden, Carved Jumbo Bulldog, or Arkansas Corncob with plastic bit.

Nevertheless, one can be won over by the author's discussion of the blending of aromatic tobaccos. He does this with the gusto of a connoisseur of fine wines, and his historical allusions to the art of pipe smoking are informative and amusing.

Pipe smoking for the ladies? The author does not think the idea suitable at all—although he mentions that Madame de Pompadour, Rosa Bonheur, and George Sand were among the notable French women who savoured the delights of the pipe.

While pipe smoking, up to 1830, appears to have been confined to the lower and middle classes, and while even today a pipe in polite society is looked upon askance, this little book may help you break that other habit. Of course, many agree with an old sultan, Achmet IV, who decreed that all smokers in his kingdom have their nose and ears cut off. Our French-

man tells us that the edict was put into force—pipe smokers and all.

### Notes on the Margin

... Hugh Sidey's excellent journalistic report, "John F. Kennedy, President," originally published just three months before the assassination, appears in a new and

updated edition from Anthenum (\$6.95). Sidey reported for Time the activities of the last President from the moment of their first meeting in a Senate elevator in 1958 until last Nov. 22. In effect, this book is a continuation of Theodore H. White's "The Making of the President: 1960."

## Around the World With



# DELAPLANE

LAHAINA, HAWAII—"We are going on a rather fast trip around the world. (We have only 30 days of unlimited travel privileges as airline employees.) What are the absolute "must" things to see?" The outstanding things that come to mind: the Taj Mahal by moonlight out of New Dehli, Temple of Baalbek in Lebanon, a short run out of Beirut. (By the way, Australian newspapermen enroute to London ALWAYS take a couple of days in Beirut—the swiftest town in the world they say.)

You could take a look at Bibliof at the same time. Supposed to be where the Greeks got the name for the Bible and where it was first written down.

You should get a day in Bangkok—temple and river tour. Couple of days in Hong Kong where you will spend twice as much as you planned.

Give Rome a few days. Good shopping, good eating. For couple of restaurants: Tre Scalini, Romulo's across the Tiber, Madrid is cheap. The Plaza Mayor is good to look on and a good place to eat in the corner. Corregidor or El Pulpito.

Paris is expensive. Sightsee the Louvre, shop the boulevards. London is great. See a couple of shows, Dublin, maybe. If you're coming back via the Caribbean, I'd say the Virgin Islands.

"We are a family of two adults and three children planning a trip to Ireland. We want to go PanAm from Miami to Lisbon and then by train or rental car through Portugal, Spain, France and England and on to Dublin. Would it be possible to travel on one passport?"

Minor children can go on one of the adult's passports. But I keep ALL my kids on separate passports. For example: You cross from Spain into France. You discover the suitcases are still on the Spanish side by some accident.

When you go back to re-

trieve them, you enter Spain again. And EVERYBODY on your passport has to leave one country and enter the other together.

The PanAm route to Lisbon lets you stop over at San Juan, Puerto Rico, you know. You could get in a couple of tropical beach days there.

"We want to go to Hawaii on our honeymoon but are undecided where to stay... Not too expensive."

I notice in most of the smaller towns on the outer islands there are small hotels that look good but apparently don't advertise or have high-powered press agents. I'd head for one of the BIG hotels on Kauai or Maui for a few days. And I would shop the nearby towns. You should come up with some real winners.

"We have heard of two bargain spots in Jamaica: Sandhurst Guest House and Melody House. Both on bus lines a few miles from the center of Kingston. Rates about \$4 for bed and breakfast. What do you think?"

I don't know these. But I have stayed in excellent guest houses in the Caribbean. The price sounds right and I'd surely try one of them. Smaller hotels or guest houses are often more interesting. The owner takes a lot of interest in you.

"We live in a small town but would like to start a group that could take advantage of the group travel rates. How do we go about it?"

Write one of the major overseas airlines (TWA or Pan American) and they'll send you all kinds of literature. Group rates go for half or less—it IS a bargain.

The airline authorities laid a lot of rules on it: You have to be in business six months. The club must be formed for some other reason than travel (However, you could form a camera club that incidentally likes to take pictures of foreign settings, couldn't you?)

## AFTER HOURS By John Morley

# Iron Curtain Countries Examined at Close Range

YALTA, USSR — I have just traveled some 3,000 miles on the route from East Berlin, Belgrade and along the Black sea, through Bulgaria, Rumania, Odessa, Sochi and Yalta in Russia. From the Berlin wall to the existing, but sometimes unseen wall of the Iron Curtain... watch towers, barbed wire.

This 3,000-mile border is Europe's "no-man's land." This "no-man's land" probably will be here for some time. Short of war, or Communist defeat or capitulation, the 30 to 3,000 yards that divide each border with the free world, will be with us a few years more.

A Yugoslavian informed me that the "death strip" will remain as the West's monumental stupidity in dealing with the Russians at Yalta and Potsdam."

The Iron Curtain separates more than real estate. It divides people... families, friends, lovers, and the whole plasma of human emotion. It divides villages, rivers and cultures.

At Bayerischer Eisenstein, on the Czech-German border, it cuts through a railroad station, a general store and a grocery, where members of the same families work by day, separated by night. At 7 p.m. of each working day they say goodbye over the shoulders of the border guards and disappear into two separate worlds.

In most instances, not a spoken word is permitted between members of these same families.

In a small village, the Iron Curtain runs through its main street, splitting the town into two separate political units. No contact or trade is permitted between the two sides.

Recently a young man died under mysterious circumstances. The brought the casket to the dividing line, so the mother could see her son, being forbidden to attend the funeral on the other side.

The Iron Curtain, however, is not all iron. The countries behind it in the East are drifting away from Russia more and more... with the exception of East Germany which has been absorbed, all but in name, by Russia.

Yugoslavia, of course, has been out of the Communist "compulsory club" since 1948, when the Kremlin ousted them from membership.

Poland is closer to Tito than to Khrushchev today.

Bulgaria and Rumania are true satellites.

Czechoslovakia follows Poland in a more independent role. Proof of this is in the Comecon (Communism's Common market) and the Warsaw Pact nations. In both instances Moscow has been unable to unite them either economically or militarily.

There is no longer a direct line of authority from the Kremlin to the eastern European capitals as before.

While still under Soviet influence and political domination, Eastern European nations are opening their frontiers to Western trade, tourism and travel for their own people.

It is no longer uncommon to meet Bulgarians and Rumanians in Western Europe. In recent months former nationals of these countries are permitted to return to visit relatives. I've met a number of these on the way to visit relatives as far north as Riga in old Latvia, now totally absorbed by the Soviet Union.

Walking in the streets of Constanta, Rumania, and observing pedestrians in Bulgaria, I saw increasing evidence of Western dress, products, films, music, records and new buses made by General Motors.

I saw Japanese transistor radios and even German record players and consoles, American and British cigarettes, Italian olive oil, citrus from Israel.

This was unheard of a few short years two when I covered some of these areas.

Western European, Japanese and Red Chinese businessmen and salesmen are here to capture the dormant East European markets.

The people overwhelmingly prefer the products of the

West even at exorbitant prices. This is true even in Russia.

In the black market a worn pair of U.S. shoes brings \$50... a worn plain white shirt commands a 10-ruble note (\$11) in Odessa.

"We prefer communism," a Russian said to me, "but it's not disloyal to prefer capitalistic goods."

The official political Communist theme among the satellites appears to be something like this today:

1. The revolution has succeeded in taking control of the government and creating a socialist state. Now we are consolidating to cater to the "human need" which means more civilian goods, better housing, etc.

2. We are now strong enough not to fear our enemies so we open our borders to them.

3. Our people are Europeans and prefer European customs, dress, goods. But this has nothing to do with our preference of socialism.

4. The greatest majority of our people prefer socialism—

therefore we can permit more freedom of discussion without concern for adverse political repercussions.

From East Berlin to Yalta, communism, as fashioned by Marx-Lenin—as proven a total flop. There never was any question about it since our first coverage of Russia in 1931... and the satellites after World War 2. The great majority of 400 millions who live behind the Curtain are not convinced. The more they are educated the more they reject "Das Kapital" and the "Communist Manifesto."

Industrialization has improved the peasant class, but this is not an achievement of communism, but the emergence of a worldwide technological social and political revolution.

Revisiting the Iron Curtain leaves me with one inescapable conclusion... Eastern Europe will follow its natural traditions and culture to the West. Television and the jets will hasten the day.

"Human needs" will prevail in the end over all else. Even the Reds now admit it.

## Our Man Hoppe

# This Problem's As Old As Adam

Art Hoppe

Now that we've all had a chance to analyze Senator Margaret Chase Smith, I'd like to go way out on a limb and flatly predict she won't become President. For while she may be ideally qualified in all respects, she has, as you know, one overwhelming personal handicap.

She isn't married. True, a look at the old record book shows that one of our past Presidents, Mr. James Buchanan, wasn't married either. But he never did amount to much. And besides, the burdens of the presidency weren't nearly as awesome then as they are today.

So I'm sure while the voters will sympathize with Mrs. Smith's widowhood, they will reluctantly reject her candidacy. For these are perilous days, it's no time to experiment. And I doubt strongly our Nation could endure without a First Man.

Of course, the duties of a First Man are not prescribed by law. But, I'm sure they would be onerous. The reason I'm sure is that I happen to be a First Man myself. Around my place. And it's pretty easy to visualize what an arduous job that would be around the White House.

It isn't just the little things. Like fixing the garage door or picking up a pound of salami on the way home or making ice cubes, or mailing the letters. I suppose our Nation could endure for four years even if the White House did have a squeaky garage door and no salami and warm drinks. And even if the President's outgoing mail never did get put in the mail box.

No sir, it's in the big things where a First Man is crucial to this Nation's well-being.

For example, our President wakes up in the middle of the night and sits bolt upright in bed. "I smell something funny," she says, "in Vietnam."

And if there is no First Man, who's going to put on his bathrobe and slippers and trudge down to Vietnam to take a reassuring look? The Secretary of Defense? Why, a sight like that would make us the laughing stock of the Free World.

Without a First Man, whom would our President secretly tell what an awful man that Charles de Gaulle is? Whom would she blame when she misplaces a battleship? Or forgets to make payments on the National Debt? Or neglects to have our Tank Corps lubricated.

Who would find her a pen to sign a peace treaty with? Who would remember to put all garbage out, I ask you, in space? And how on earth, without a First Man, could we ever expect to balance the budget?

So you can see right away how terribly important we First Men are, Yes sir, we are absolutely essential to the happiness, orderliness and security of any well-run establishment. All First Men know this positively.

And I'm confident I speak for First Men everywhere when I say no unmarried lady should be allowed to be President. Frankly, I think we could stand it if she didn't do a good job without a First Man. But we sure couldn't bear it if she did.

(Distributed by Chronicle Features)

## Morning Report:

It's very easy to see why General de Gaulle feels he can tell President Johnson how to run things in Southeast Asia. After all, the French have been in the area since 1787. Which is a long time before Texas.

In fact, Paris laid the firm foundations for the present troubles now involving us in both Vietnams, Cambodia, and Laos. Of course, there were also trouble there even before the French arrived. So they can't claim all the credit.

The General wants everybody down there to be neutral, which is a fine thing. But what kind of neutrality? Swiss neutrality or Polish neutrality?

Abe Mellinkoff